



WESTWIND COMMUNITY BARN USER'S REPORT

Westwind Community Barn is a Town asset and an historic barn built in the 1940's when horses covered the rural landscape of Los Altos Hills. Today "the Barn" is used by many members of the community for a wide variety of programs.

Users of the Barn

Equine/Boarders:

The boarders: Approximately 55-60 horses reside on the property; 46 horses belong to boarders who pay essentially the full cost of boarding*, including feed, cleaning, manure removal, and manpower. Historically, the boarders have been a mix of residents and non-residents. Residents have priority when there is an opening, and pay less than non-residents.

4-H Riding for the Handicapped (8 Horses):

The non-profit organization, **Westwind Riding Institute**, which owns and cares for the 4-H horses used in the 4-H horse-riding program, pays full cost for services provided. Funds raised by **Westwind 4-H** built and maintain the small 4-stall barn and adjacent stall/paddocks that their horses occupy. They provide riding instruction to physically and developmentally disabled children – a highly therapeutic exercise for the handicapped. This program involves about 45 children and 36 volunteers -- both residents and non-residents. It has operated for 30 years at Westwind Barn and is completely self-sustaining.

Town of Los Altos Hills Parks & Recreation Youth Riding Programs (6 horses):

Horses are owned by **Excursions Unlimited** and the Town contracts for their exclusive use in lessons, clinics, camps and trail rides for school age beginning riders. Participant's fees now cover the cost of the services. A subsidy, given in the first 3 years of the program to get it established, was gradually whittled down. This popular riding program for youth is projected to break even for the first time this year. The program is now running at about 300 students per year, approximately 40% residents. (A statistic similar to other recreation programs. For example Little League is about 30%-35% residents.) Our children similarly participate in Los Altos recreation programs. Fees: Non-residents pay a small premium over residents.

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Pacific Ridge Pony Club:

Approximately 23 children participate in this program. The **Pacific Ridge Pony Club** is part of the **U.S. Pony Club**, the world's leading junior equestrian organization. Other programs include the **Spring Horse Show & Halloween Horse Show**.

Town & Community Sponsored Events that Bring the Community Together:

Earth Day celebration for children and adults attracts about 500 area residents. The **Annual Pathways Run** brings almost as many for a 5K/10K run/walk of the pathways starting at Westwind barn. **Westwind & Wineries**, which highlights wines from private vintners in Los Altos Hills, is a great attraction every other year for over 300 attendees. The **Hoedown** is a fun dinner and dance fundraiser (250), and the **Holiday Barn Lighting** kicks into gear the Holiday season (250); and the **Annual Hoppin' Hounds** fundraiser for the **Palo Alto Animal Shelter and Services** (our Town animal control provider) which has 150 human participants.



Hiking:

The community at large enjoys hiking at Byrne preserve and access to the natural beauty of the open space and animals that abound.

** In 1976 the Town of Los Altos Hills acquired Westwind Barn and 13 ½ acres as a gift from Countess Margit Besseney. The Town took over the management of the Barn as of July 1, 2008. The budget for the first half-year anticipates a small deficit of approximately \$11,000. The Town's objective is to run the barn operations at breakeven within 12 months. The goal of the Town is to support the existing programs in a financially responsible way and to increase access of the facilities to an ever-wider user group.*



*P&R Committee
September 2008*

